

CONTACT US

Stay involved in the US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project. To learn more, visit us online at www.us219.com or contact:

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We are here ►

PROJECT SCHEDULE / MILESTONES

Public Meeting No. 1.....	June 2002
Mapping Features/Data Collection.....	Spring/Summer 2002
Traffic Forecast Update.....	Summer 2002
Website and Newsletter.....	Summer 2002
Preliminary Corridors Identified.....	Fall 2002
Public Meeting No.2.....	Winter 2002/2003
Detailed Studies.....	Spring 2003
Develop Alternatives.....	Fall 2003
Public Meeting No.3.....	Fall 2003
Draft *EIS/Public Hearing.....	Summer 2004
Final *EIS.....	Mid 2005

*Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 2 / Spring 2003

PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN GRANTSVILLE, MD

More than 220 Maryland and Pennsylvania residents attended a Public Meeting conducted by PENNDOT (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation), Maryland State Highway Administration (MDSHA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on February 25, 2003 at the Holiday Inn, Grantsville, Maryland.

The purpose of this meeting was to present updated project information, view proposed corridors and potential local access locations, educate and gain input from the public and work with the public to identify areas of interest and concern. In addition, the public had an opportunity to speak one-on-one with Project Team members during the meeting. The Public Meeting was preceded by a Public Officials Briefing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AIRED

Comment forms were distributed at the welcome station along with a map identifying the corridors and local access considerations. Information solicited from the comment forms has been reviewed by the Project Team. The following is an overview:

When asked about preliminary corridor locations: 4 percent of respondents favored the upgrade alignment; none favored Corridor A and 16 percent favored Corridor B; and 80 percent favored Corridor C. Eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents were opposed to the Upgrade Alignment that would focus improvements along much of the existing US 219 roadway. Those not favoring the Upgrade expressed concerns for potential community disruption, including property impacts, residential and business displacements, expense and uncertainty that an upgrade would meet the long term needs of the region.

Providing safe access to and from communities, homes and businesses along US 219 is a primary concern for the Project Team. Potential interchange locations near the southern end of the existing Meyersdale Bypass, near Salisbury, at Interstate-68 and some location between the Pennsylvania/Maryland State Line and I-68 are under consideration. Eighty-five percent of respondents favored interchanges for access and favored various access locations. Respondents expressed particular interest in locating an interchange near Salisbury to provide easy access to Boynton and support emergency service needs.



CORRIDOR MAPPING AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

For residents who were unable to attend the public meeting or want a second look, preliminary corridor mapping and informational displays were delivered to municipal offices in Elk Lick Township, Summit Township, Brothers Valley Township, Garrett County and the Grantsville municipal office. These displays offer maps of the project area with proposed corridors identified by the project team. These corridors, which are 1000-feet wide and approximately 8-miles long, represent the area in which a roadway could be built.

FARMER INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

In early March, PENNDOT and McCormick Taylor & Associates interviewed 20 full and part-time farmers in the project area. The farmers included dairy, beef, and crop farmers along with maple syrup producers. The purpose of the interviews was to determine how the farmers use their land and how their farms/sugar camps operate. Features vital to the operations, such as water supplies, limited tillable land, and high yield cropland/maple trees, were identified. Identification of these features will allow the Project Team to develop highway alternatives that minimize impacts to the farming operations.

US 219 Meyersdale to I-68
c/o McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.
3133 New Germany Road, Suite 64
Ebensburg, PA 15931

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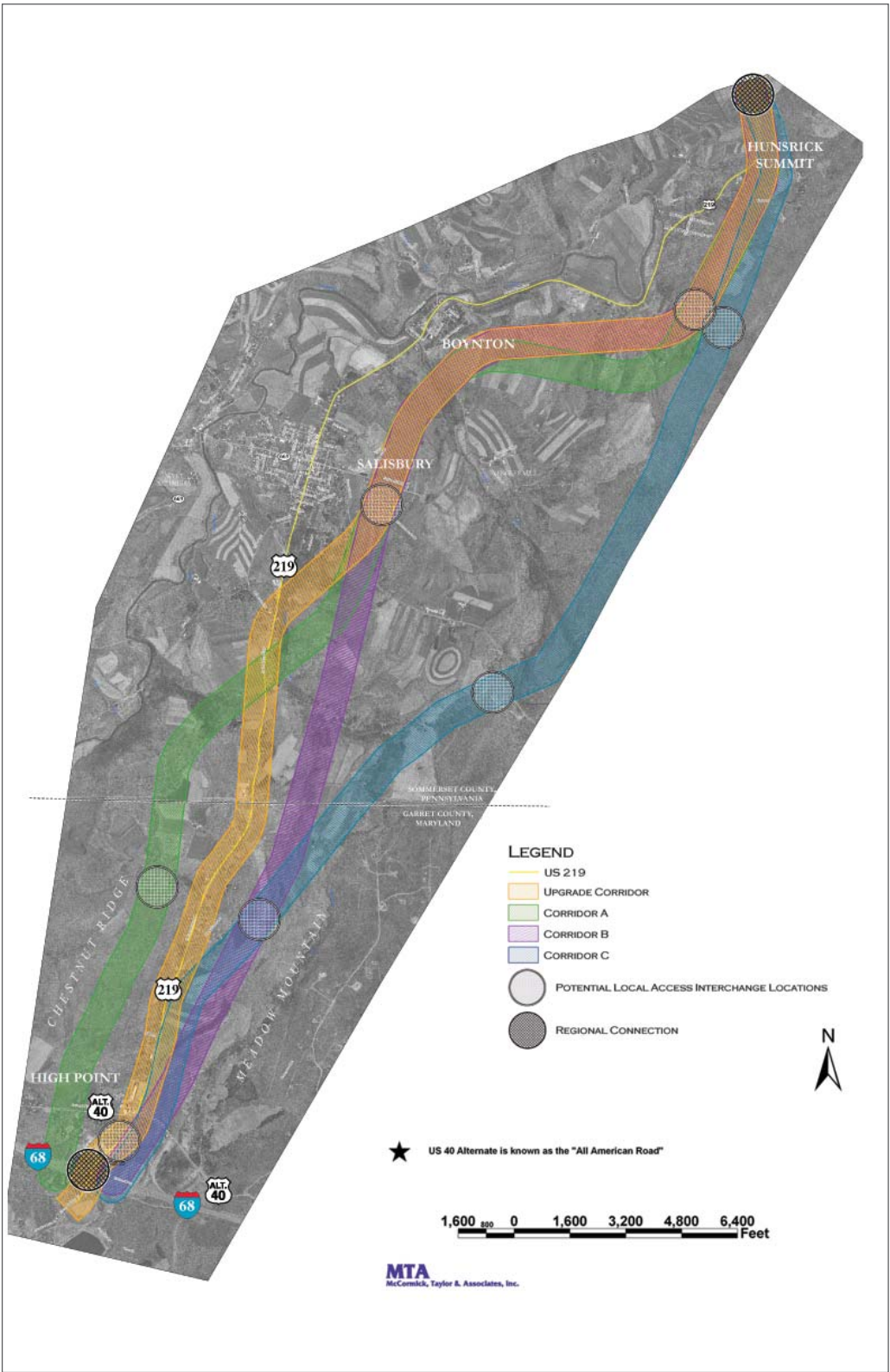
**UPGRADE AND CORRIDORS
DEVELOPED FOR FURTHER STUDY**

The Project Team has developed an Upgrade to the existing US 219 and three offline Corridors: A, B and C. These corridors, which are 1000-foot wide and approximately 8-miles long represent the area in which potential roadway alignments will be explored.

The Project Team also created a matrix demonstrating a summary of resources within each corridor. The purpose of this matrix is to illustrate the number of resources contained within each of the corridors. These numbers do not represent actual impacts at this time, as the corridors evolve actual impacts will be tabulated. To review the summary of resources, please visit the project website: www.us219.com and click on Project Information, or visit one of the municipal offices listed in the "Corridor Mapping Available for Review" article on page 1."

Full-color, 11x17 maps displaying the Upgrade and the three Corridors were distributed at the Public Meeting. Attendees were asked to draw additional ideas regarding corridors or interchange locations, and to identify features of interest or concerns. Of the maps returned, several identified features of interest and one map suggested a change to Corridor C, all of which will be considered by the Project Team.

After the public meeting the team began to develop alternatives within the corridors. The Project Team will re-evaluate the potential impacts to the resources for each alternative. The Project Team will work with the Project's Community Advisory Committee, State and Federal Resource Agencies during the development of alternatives. These alternatives will be presented for public input at the next public meeting this fall.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONVENED

The Project Team convened the first meeting of a Community Advisory Committee on January 16, 2003 in Salisbury, Pa. The committee members represent more than 20 segments of the community including homeowners, business, the coal industry, trucking, environment, cultural resources, public officials, schools, and emergency services. A complete list can be found on the project website: www.us219.com.

At the January meeting, the committee previewed the upgrade, corridors and preliminary access considerations. Members had an opportunity to share suggestions and ask questions. The Project Team recorded these comments and encouraged the committee to discuss these items within their communities.

The committee will convene again in June to discuss project updates.

LOCAL ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS

The Project Team conducted a presentation at the Salisbury Borough's December 9, 2002 meeting. Elk Lick officials were also invited to attend. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the Officials about the project and discuss local access considerations.

The team presented traffic volume information that indicated 1/3 of all traffic on US 219 in the project area has Salisbury as a destination. Comments at the December 9th meeting were received and recorded. Officials stated that population and economic growth are important and that this project would benefit the region.

The map to the left illustrates with white or black hatched circles where potential local access locations are being considered. These locations are at the southern end of the Meyersdale Bypass, between Meyersdale and Salisbury, Salisbury, south of the Pennsylvania state line in Maryland and at I-68.

Comments regarding local access were also solicited on the questionnaire distributed at the February 25th Public Meeting. Of the respondents, 89 percent favored interchanges for access. A majority of respondents cited Salisbury and I-68 as areas that would benefit from interchanges for access.



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